(c) whether the Western countries have been conducting extensive research on Indian herbs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued general guidelines for methodologies on research and evaluation of traditional medicines and traditional medicines strategy for the members countries. WHO is not a mandatory body. Their permission is not required for conducting any research.

(c) and (d) It is a known fact that Western countries are conducting research on Indian herbs including, Bhumi Amalaki (Plyllanthus amarus), Nimba (Azadirahta indica) and haridra (Curcuma longa) etc.

Committee on population Policy

1258. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a Committee to help State Governments to devise population policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objectives proposed to be achieved by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A National Level Resources Committee has been constituted to assist the States in formulation of Population Policies with State specific strategies while keeping in mind the general spirit of the National Population Policy, 2000. The composition of National Level Resources Committee (NLRC) is as under:

(i) Dr.Vimla Ramachandran Health Watch.
(ii) Dr. Leela Visaria, Delhi University, Delhi
(iii) Dr. Almas Ali, Consultant, UNFPA/MoHFW.
(iv) Dr. Moham Rao, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
(v) Dr. (Mrs) Mira Shiva, Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi.
(vi) Representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
(vii) Sh. S.C. Srivastava, Director (Policy), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The terms of reference of the committee are:

- To provide technical support to State Governments in formulation of State Population Policies.
- To hold consultative workshops with the representatives of State Governments, experts and other civil society actors to assist formulating the State Population Policies.

(c) The objective of the committee is to maintain uniformity in approach regarding the State Population Policies and the National Population Policy (NPP), 2000 which afrim the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice while availing of reproductive health care services and the continuation of target free approach in administering family planning services.

News-item, "Doctors stole my kidney, says BSF man"

1259. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doctors stole my kidney says BSF man", which appeared in The Hindustan Times (Kolkata), dated the 15th June, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that such complaints off and on appear in media;

(c) whether Government have probed into the complaints; and

(d) if so, how many offenders have been punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

However, under section 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the Purpose of the Act. Sale and purchase of human organs including kidney is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994. The Act has provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts.